

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO BIRMINGHAM'S CELEBRATION OF ALABAMA 200

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Birmingham's kick-off celebrations for "Alabama 200," a three year campaign to commemorate the people and places of Alabama in recognition of its 200 years of statehood. This week Birmingham launches its bicentennial theme, "I'm Coming Home", at the Alabama Theatre in downtown historic district.

Alabama 200 offers the opportunity to look back at the state's unique and diverse history. For the City of Birmingham, it's a chance to highlight and remember contributions of the wonderful people from the City who have helped shape our great state and change this nation.

I believe it is befitting that during the 2017 Magic City Classic football weekend that we pay special tribute to the outstanding contributions of Birmingham's musical luminaries.

A few of Birmingham's biggest musical giants, include The Blind Boys of Alabama, Lionel Hampton and the amazing talent of The Temptations, comprised of Eddie Kendricks, Dennis Edwards, Paul Williams, and Melvin Franklin. Between these Birmingham men there are a total of eight Grammys, numerous White House performances and several Hall of Fame inductions. Through the course of their careers they became regarded as some of the best in their respective genres.

Perhaps, the best known vocal group from Birmingham was The Temptations. Before The Temptations became one of Motown's greatest singing groups they started out as a trio from the Magic City called The Cavaliers. They were led by childhood friends Eddie Kendrick and Paul Williams who grew up in the Birmingham neighborhood of Ensley.

Today, The Temptations are world renowned and considered ambassadors of soul. During their career the group has sold 16 million LPs and scored 14 number one R&B singles, including 'My Girl' and 'Ain't Too Proud to Beg'. They received three Grammys and were inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

Members of The Blind Boys of Alabama also had deep roots in the City of Birmingham. This talented group is a 5-time Grammy award-winning gospel group who first sang together in 1939. In the seven decades since the Blind Boys of Alabama first performed, America has changed tremendously—witnessing everything from a world war to the civil rights movement. But through it all, the Blind Boys' music has not only endured, but thrived, helping both to define the sound of the American south and to push it forward through the 20th century and well on into the 21st century.

The Blind Boys of Alabama first sang together in the school chorus at the Alabama In-

stitute for the Negro Blind in Talladega, Alabama. The group was originally called the "Happyland Jubilee Singers" and its founding members were Clarence Fountain, Jimmy Carter, George Scott, Velma Bozman Traylor, Johnny Fields, Olice Thomas, and the only sighted member, J. T. Hutton.

The Blind Boys first rose to fame in the segregated south, releasing their debut single, "I Can See Everybody's Mother But Mine," in 1948. Seventy years later the group continues to entertain crowds around the globe.

Many do not know that great jazz musician Lionel Hampton also had his early beginnings in Birmingham, Alabama. Shortly after his birth in 1908 in Louisville, Kentucky, he and his mother moved to her hometown in Birmingham, AL.

Lionel Hampton was a musical genius who mastered so many instruments and roles. He was a jazz vibraphonist, pianist, percussionist, bandleader and actor. Lionel Hampton's rich mastery of the vibraphone made him one of the leading figures of the swing era. He was an extremely important figure in American music, not only as an entertainer and an improvising musician in jazz, but also because his band helped usher in rock 'n' roll.

He performed on piano and drums and was one of the first musicians to play the vibraphone in jazz. He also played on groundbreaking recordings with Louis Armstrong, Benny Carter and Benny Goodman in the 1920's and 30's.

The exceptional talent of Lionel Hampton, the Blind Boys of Alabama and the Temptations has made the City of Birmingham proud. While these musical giants will be honored during Magic City Classic, the contributions of other Birmingham notables will also be celebrated by the City during the three-year campaign leading up to Alabama's 200 anniversary of statehood. Future Birmingham honorees will include: Dr. James Andrews, Dr. Richard Arrington, Jr., Charles Barkley, William Bell, Sr., Bobby Bowden, Courtney Cox, Dr. Larry DeLucas, Fannie Flagg, Dr. Herschell Lee Hamilton, Emmylou Harris, Bo Jackson, Carl Lewis, Rebecca Luker, Dr. Charles McCallum, Patty McDonald, Dr. Michael Saag, David Sea, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Dr. Selwyn Vickers, Dr. Michael McCracken and Odessa Woolfolk. Special recognition to the illustrious Dr. Henry Panion III composer and professor of music at University of Alabama at Birmingham for his outstanding efforts in arranging, directing and performing the tributes to Birmingham's musical giants during the Magic City Classic weekend.

Alabama's bicentennial celebration offers citizens and visitors of all ages the chance to share and explore our state's history as we share our colorful past and imagine a more progressive future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of "Alabama 200"—the three-year bicentennial campaign—and the very special role the people of Birmingham played in shaping this state and our nation. May the State of Alabama, the City of Birmingham and their

rich traditions continue to grow and prosper for many more years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIG SABLE LIGHTHOUSE

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Big Sable Lighthouse. For a century and a half, the Big Sable Lighthouse has been lighting up the eastern shores of Lake Michigan. On November 1, the people of Ludington will celebrate this momentous occasion.

In July 1866, Congress appropriated funds for a new lighthouse to be constructed along the shores of Lake Michigan's Big Sable Point. Completed in 1867, the 112 foot yellow brick structure was later covered with steel plates to withstand the harsh elements of the lakeshore.

After 100 years of service, the lighthouse was finally decommissioned in 1968—whereupon it fell into disrepair. Without upkeep, Big Sable was deemed unsalvageable by the U.S. Coast Guard in 1986. Thankfully, a few intrepid businessmen positioned sandbags in front of the lighthouse and residence, shoring up the weathered seawall. These men would later found the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association, whose efforts preserve and promote the now accessible tower.

Today, the lighthouse has been completely restored and opens daily for visitors to climb. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 150 years that Big Sable has been lighting the shores of Lake Michigan. I welcome them to make the two mile hike to Big Sable Point and see what West Michigan has to offer.

REMEMBERING ELIZABETH CHACE

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Elizabeth Chace. Lilly, as most people knew her, travelled around the world, but her heart was never far from her friends and family in Rhode Island.

Lilly is remembered for her cutting wit, her love of movies, and her fierce loyalty to those she loved. She was a devoted fan of the New England Patriots, the Boston Red Sox, and her puppy Mona.

The loss of her distinctive laugh, contagious joy and incredible generosity of spirit has shaken our entire community. To honor her memory, her family is asking that anyone thinking of her practice a random act of kindness and sing at the top of your lungs, in your car, with the windows down. A moving testament to a wonderful person.

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